

Appendix G

Other Park Areas

Schoodic Peninsula

Isle au Haut

APPENDIX G – OTHER PARK AREAS

Schoodic Peninsula

Acadia National Park protects close to 48,000 acres of coastal Maine including the 2,266 acre granite sliver of Schoodic Peninsula on the eastern side of Frenchman Bay.

Acquired in the 1920s, the park's first superintendent, George B. Dorr, felt that the peninsula captured the essence of the Maine coastline from its rocky shore at Schoodic Point to its outstanding coastal vistas from the top of Schoodic Head. Eventually the peninsula would be shared with the United States Navy. A military radio station based on Otter Cliffs on Mount Desert Island was moved to the Schoodic site in the 1930s.

Today Schoodic Peninsula is the only part of Acadia National Park found on the mainland. Schoodic Peninsula is flanked by Frenchman Bay to the west and to the east. Looking across to Mount Desert Island, numerous islands dot the seascape. Closest are Turtle Island, Ironbound Island; off in the distance to the left are the silhouettes of Baker and Little Cranberry Island. The peninsula boasts granite headlands that bear erosional scars of storm waves and flood tides. Dark colored basaltic dikes intrude between the peninsula's slabs of pink granite. Along this windswept coast, huge granite ledges turn Atlantic waves into lofty geysers while quieter coves hold tidepools and mudflats for exploration. The peninsula is dotted with swamps and marshes scattered throughout the spruce and fir forests. This secluded section of Acadia National Park provides an outstanding backdrop as an outdoor classroom. Lessons on geology and marine creatures spring to life. A recent biological inventory provides educators with information on the plants and animals of the peninsula.

VISITING SCHOODIC PENINSULA

The park boundary is marked by a sign just before you reach Mosquito Harbor Bridge. Beyond the bridge, Frazer Point Picnic Area, with tables, fire rings, comfort stations and drinking water, offers seacoast views of islands, coves, and rocky beaches. Leaving the picnic area, the one-way park road intersects a spruce-fir forest as the road parallels the western shore of Schoodic Peninsula to Schoodic Point. Across Frenchman Bay you can see the Mount Desert Island profile with Cadillac Mountain's summit clearly in view.

About two and one half miles from the picnic area, an unmarked road ascends to the top (440 feet) of Schoodic Head. This is a narrow gravel road, so please exercise caution when meeting traffic. Although you can drive up the one-mile road, you may choose to walk. The quick access trail to the summit from the parking area winds

through spruce forest mingling with stands of jack pine and pitch pine. On a clear day, vistas of the ocean, forest, and mountains claim your attention. Returning to the main road, keep right at the intersection to reach Schoodic Point. (Caution - This becomes a two-way section of road.) Schoodic Point provides an outstanding vantage point for witnessing the power of the sea.

After leaving Schoodic Point, bear right and follow the road - one way again - until you reach Blueberry Hill Parking Area, about one mile beyond Schoodic Point. If you look towards the ocean, Schoodic Island emerges. To your right is Little Moose Island. Behind you and across the road is a steep slope called The Anvil. You can reach the summit of this 180 foot promontory via the trail that starts across the road from the parking lot. The remaining two mile drive from Blueberry Hill to the park's end at Wonsqueak Harbor is skirted by rocky cliffs and cobble beaches. Jack pine is scattered among stands of white spruce along the roadway. Two miles beyond the park is the village of Birch Harbor and the intersection of Route 186.

ENTRANCE FEES

Obtain a park pass while visiting Acadia on Mt. Desert Island before traveling to Schoodic. It is \$20 per vehicle for a seven-day pass.

REST ROOMS

Rest rooms at Schoodic Peninsula are located at Frazer Point Picnic Area and at Schoodic Point. Rest rooms are not open year round.

PICNIC AREAS

Frazer Point is the only picnic area at Schoodic.

CAMPING

There is no camping at Schoodic Peninsula although there are private campgrounds in the vicinity.

APPENDIX G – OTHER PARK AREAS

Isle Au Haut

“High Island” is the English translation for Isle au Haut, the name given by the French explorer, Samuel Champlain, during his expedition along the Maine Coast in 1604. Although shell heaps along the island’s shores tell of an American Indian presence long before Champlain’s arrival, it wasn’t until the end of the American Revolution that farmers, fishermen, and boat builders came to the island in large numbers. In the 1880s, a small summer community, attracted by agreeable weather and idyllic scenery, was established. In 1943, heirs of the founder of that community donated portions of Isle au Haut to the federal government as part of Acadia National Park. Because of their generosity, much of the island’s beauty and solitude is now preserved for all to experience and enjoy. Although about one-half of Isle au Haut is federal park land, the other half is privately owned, with summer residents and a year-round fishing community. Please respect private property rights.

ACCESS

Remote and inaccessible to automobile traffic, Isle au Haut is linked to the mainland by a mailboat from Stonington, which does not operate on postal holidays. No auto ferry exists. For current fare and schedule information, write: Isle au Haut Ferry Company, Stonington, ME 04681, or call between 9AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday, or 9AM and 12 noon on Saturday, at (207) 367-5193. Important: Year-round, the mailboat runs to the Town Landing. From mid-June through early September (not on Sundays), the boat also goes to Duck Harbor. Park rangers encourage visitors to ride to Duck Harbor, which is located in the heart of the park area. The mailboat operates on a first-come, first-served basis. Since there is a limit on the number of visitors allowed in the Isle au Haut section of Acadia, day trippers may, on rare occasion, be denied access to the park.

HIKING

For avid hikers, there are 18 miles of trails that offer opportunities to explore rocky shoreline, wooded uplands, marshes, bogs, and a mile-long freshwater lake. Come prepared for rough and sometimes wet trails. Bring adequate footgear, warm clothing, and raingear. From late June through early September, boat service to Duck Harbor will provide the best starting point for hiking. During the summer, a park ranger will board the mailboat at the town landing to answer your questions about Isle au Haut. Upon arriving at Duck Harbor, you may elect to take a hike with the park ranger or explore on your own.

BIKING

Park rangers discourage biking on Isle au Haut for the following reasons: Only four miles of road are paved and appropriate for narrow-tired touring bikes. The rest of the road is very rough and suitable only for non-motorized mountain bikes. Mountain bikes cannot be used on hiking trails. The mailboat will only drop off and pick up bikes at the Town Landing.

CAMPING

Five lean-to shelters at Duck Harbor Campground can be used on an advance-reservation basis from May 15 through October 15. (See reservation information below). The shelters have three sides, a roof, and floor, and hold up to six people each. Shelter dimensions are 8 feet tall at the center, 8 feet deep, and 12.5 feet wide. A small free-standing tent may only be erected inside the lean-to. Facilities include a fire ring, a picnic table, a pit toilet, and a hand pump for water. The pump is located about 1,600 feet from the shelters, so bring a container to carry water. Dead and down wood may be gathered for campfires. There is no trash disposal. All trash must be carried out. Pets are not permitted in the campground. Check-out time is 11 am. From late June through early September, boat service to Duck Harbor brings you within a quarter mile of the campground. When the boat does not run to Duck Harbor, it will leave you at the Town Landing, and you must backpack five miles to Duck Harbor Campground. Confirm boat schedule and destination with the captain.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Follow these instructions to apply for a Special Use Permit at Duck Harbor Campground:

- Reservation requests for a Special Use Permit must be received in person at park headquarters or must be postmarked April 1 or later. Requests delivered or postmarked before April 1 will be returned without action. Telephone requests are not accepted. There is a limit of one stay per season, per person or group. Requests should be sent to Acadia National Park, PO Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609, attention: Isle au Haut Reservations.
- Before completing the Reservation Request Form, contact the Isle au Haut Ferry Company, Stonington, ME 04681 or call (207)367-5193 for the boat schedule to Isle au Haut. Print name, address, daytime and evening telephone number, and number of people in the space provided on the request form. Enter your choice of dates in the block provided. Due to high demand for campsites, you are more likely to receive a reservation confirmation if you apply for alternate dates. Indicate if you will accept less than the number of days requested. "Departure date" indicates the day you actually leave the campground. Remember that you cannot arrive or depart from Isle au Haut on postal holidays because the mailboat does not operate on these days.

- Regardless of how many nights you wish to camp, \$25.00 must accompany each Reservation Request Form. One request form reserves one lean-to. If your group includes more than six people, you will need more than one Reservation Request Form. Only one request form and one fee accepted per envelope. The maximum length of stay is three nights per group, except before June 15 and after September 15, when the maximum stay is extended to five nights. Postal money order, certified check, or personal check payable to the National Park Service is acceptable. Do not send Canadian currency. If we can accommodate your reservation request, your \$25.00 Special Use Permit fee becomes non-refundable and we will send a reservation confirmation to you. There is no additional fee for camping. If we are not able to honor your reservation request, we will return your \$25.00.
- When you travel to Isle au Haut, bring your Special Use Permit along; you will need to show it to the mailboat captain and the park ranger when you arrive.

SERVICES

A small store and post office, both with limited hours, are located near the Town Landing. There are no private campgrounds.

REGULATIONS

Accidents: Must be reported to the park rangers if property damage or personal injury are involved.

Hunting: Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

Firearms: Must be unloaded and cased or otherwise packed in such a way as to prevent use.

Fishing: Permitted in accordance with State of Maine law. A state license is required for freshwater fishing.

Audio Devices: The operation of any audio device which unreasonably annoys other park visitors is prohibited. Radios must be completely off between quiet hours, 10pm and 7am.

Firecrackers: The possession or use of fireworks or firecrackers is prohibited.

Disorderly Conduct/Intoxication: It is illegal to be in the park when under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance. The possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor (less than 21 years old) is prohibited.

Public Property: The possession, destruction, removal, or disturbance of park property or natural resources is prohibited.

Fire Danger: Campfires are allowed only in designated campground areas. Never leave fires unattended. During periods of high fire danger, campfires in the campground and smoking on trails may be prohibited.

Pets: Must be on a leash at all times while in the park and are prohibited in the campground.